

# **Urgent Proposal by the Advisory Panel on Future Central Japan\***

## **Questioning the Goals this Region Should Aim for After the Exposition!**

### **To the Preparation of a “Proposal from Central Japan to the World”**

#### **– 2005 Takeoff of Central Japan**

A variety of infrastructures have been created in preparation for the opening of the 2005 World Exposition in Central Japan. This region can finally take full advantage of the benefits sitting in the center of Japan. This year can be called the starting point of a new stage of development for Central Japan

This urgent proposal states that we take advantage of the opportunity offered by the World Exposition to ask people attracted by the exposition from around the world and throughout Japan to answer the question: Looking ahead 50 or 100 years into the future, how will we complete and how will we expand the substructure of this region in the next 30 to 50 years from the following four perspectives?

- (1) Last year various forms of catastrophic disasters occurred in many places around the world. It is assumed that if global warming continues, climatic conditions will become increasingly severe. It is predicted that the Tokai, Tonankai, and Nankai Earthquakes will occur soon. Under such circumstances, it is necessary to reconsider how to guarantee the safety of the region.
- (2) The theme of the World Exposition is “Nature’s Wisdom”. As global environmental problems become increasingly severe, Central Japan is, as the region hosting the World Exposition, responsible for looking ahead 50 to 100 years into the future to clarify the best way to use the homeland in order to restore it to health and enable its sustainable development.
- (3) In order for this region to increase its international competitive strength centered on the creation of products to stimulate the overall Japanese economy, it is obliged to take advantage of its beneficial location in the center of the country to strategically create transportation and other basic infrastructure.
- (4) The World Exposition will stimulate tourism and encourage relations with the rest of Japan and the world. Tourism must be promoted in Central Japan and its links with Hokuriku and Kinki must be strengthened in order for this region to play a pioneering role in the Age of Global Exchange.

\* The Advisory Panel on Future Central Japan was officially launched in 2002 with the release of a report entitled “The Central Japan Vision (Interim version)” and consists of a group of individuals with special knowledge who have been chosen to give their opinions to the regional agencies of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) on future infrastructure development in Central Japan.

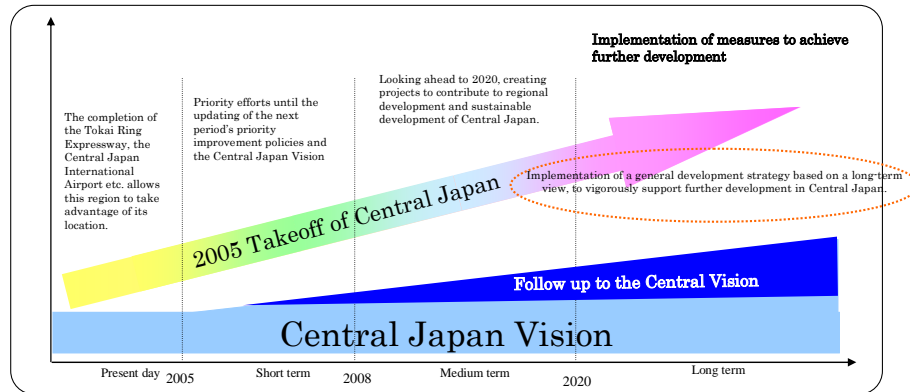
A medium to long term development strategy for Central Japan will be constructed from a long term perspective, treating 2005 as an important starting point in the further growth and sustainable development of the this region.

- Priority efforts to hold the World Exposition and complete the Central Japan International Airport will be continued as projects are steadily implemented to achieve the Central Japan Vision.

- The maximum possible use of the achievements of the World Exposition and the Central Japan International Airport will be made in order to achieve further growth and sustainable development of Central Japan.



- Policies will be steadily implemented to achieve further progress.



We look forward to hearing people's opinions and their active discussions concerning this proposal, in order to achieve sustainable development in Central Japan through cooperation transcending past boundaries between industry, academia, government, and the general public.

\* Homepage URL <http://www.cbr.mlit.go.jp/mannaka/english/index.htm>  
E-Mail [mannaka@cbr.mlit.go.jp](mailto:mannaka@cbr.mlit.go.jp)

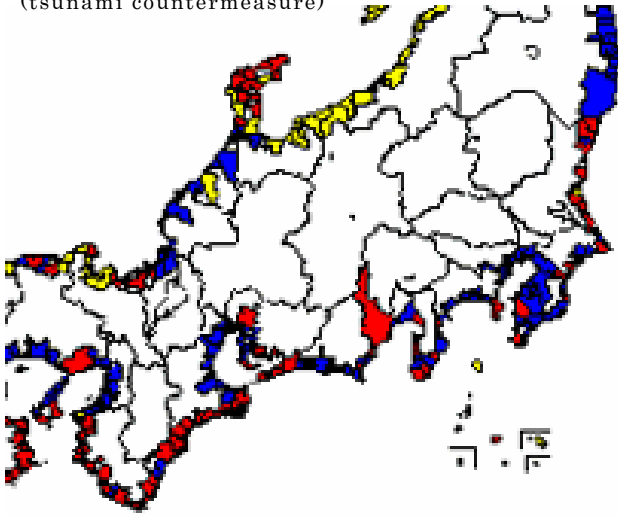
○This urgent proposal looks ahead to further growth and sustainable development of Central Japan to encourage discussions of four themes: “vulnerability to natural disasters,” “challenges to restoring the health of the homeland and enabling its sustainable development,” “challenges facing the construction of an efficient physical distribution system to strengthen the international competitiveness of industry,” and “challenges to fulfilling its base functions in the Age of Global Exchange.”

As a result, the following questions have been raised in the Urgent Proposal.

## (1) Formation of safe regions

It calls for ways to create regions that support safe, worry-free, and comfortable lives by preventing wind and flood damage and droughts, by preparing for earthquakes including the Tokai Earthquake that is an earthquake with an 86% occurrence probability during the next 30 years, and by providing disaster support systems.

Height of sea dikes  
(tsunami countermeasure)



Dikes on only 40% of the coastline are high enough to provide protection from tsunami.

(Source) Home Page of the River Bureau  
of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

Height of dikes (Tsunami countermeasure)  
\* Shown in city, town, or village units.

: City, town, or village with dikes higher than the  
Hypothetical tsunami

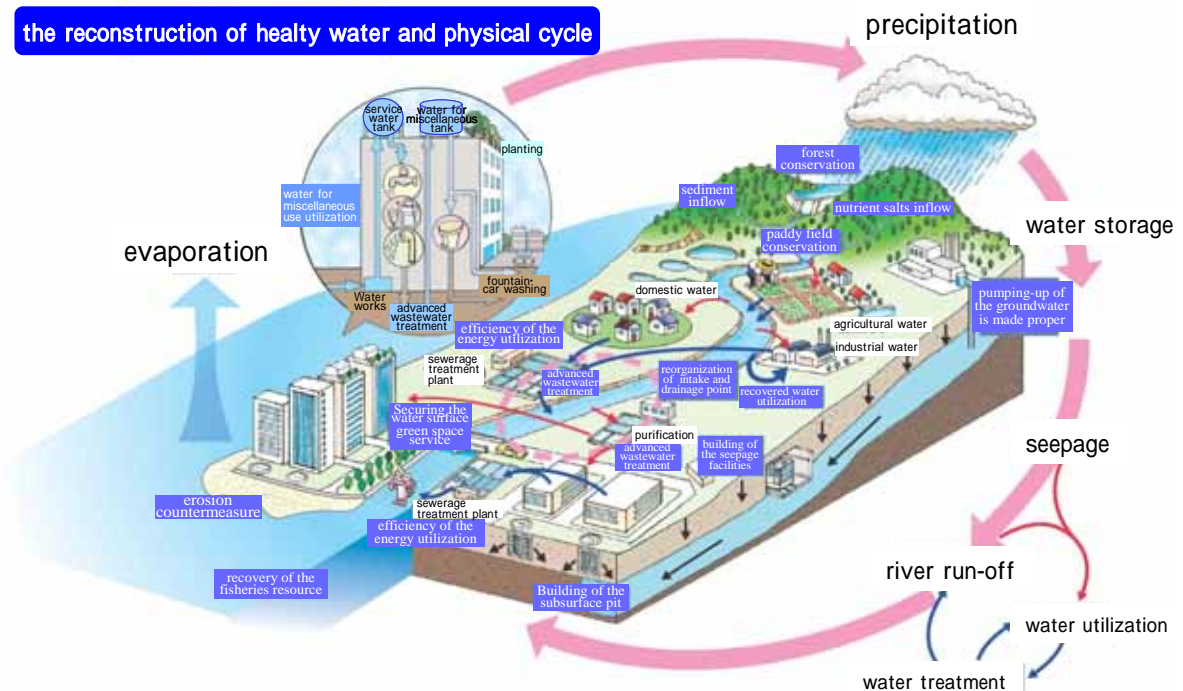
: City, town, or village with dikes that may be partly  
lower higher than the hypothetical tsunami

: City, town, or village with some places where the  
dikes are partly lower than the hypothetical tsunami

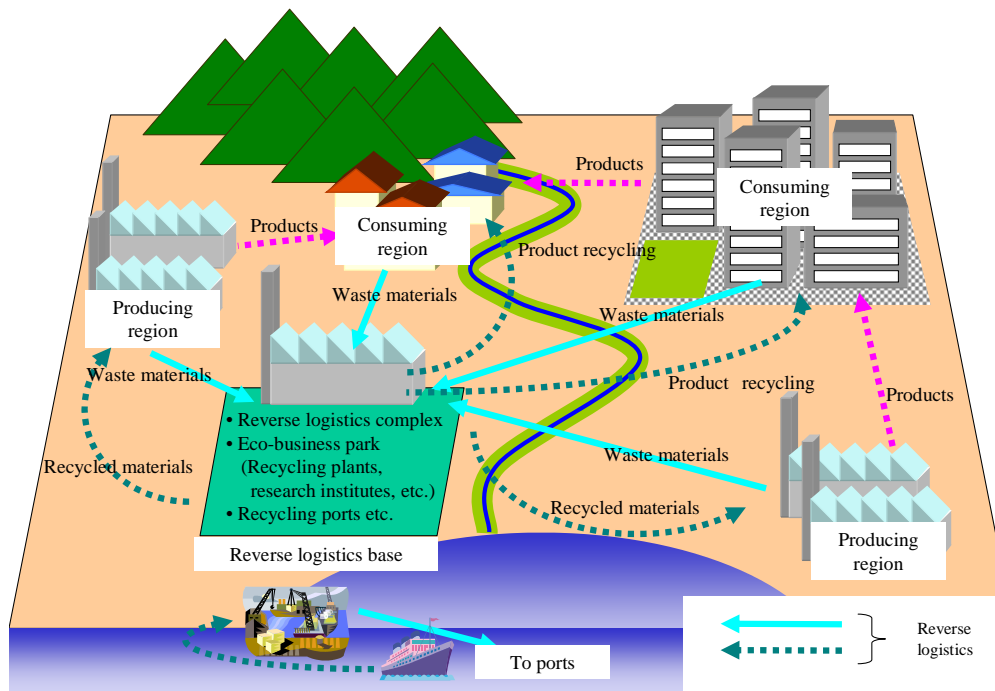
## (2) Restoration of the health of the homeland and its sustainable development

The Urgent Proposal demands the answers to three questions. How should we restore the deteriorated health of the homeland that has been reduced by the increased load imposed on the environment by the priority on economic development since the Meiji Period (1867 – 1912)? How should a transportation system that is friendly to the environment be constructed? And how can regional development be carried out in order to achieve sustainable development?

### the reconstruction of healthy water and physical cycle



## Formation of reverse logistics bases and a reverse logistics network



It also asks how the concept, “homeland awareness” that respects its public use should be cultivated and handed down to succeeding generations in order that we can continue to use the homeland in healthy condition.

## Definition and the significance and aims of “homeland awareness”

### Definition of “homeland awareness”

Performing better regional development with affection for the homeland

### Significance of efforts in Central Japan

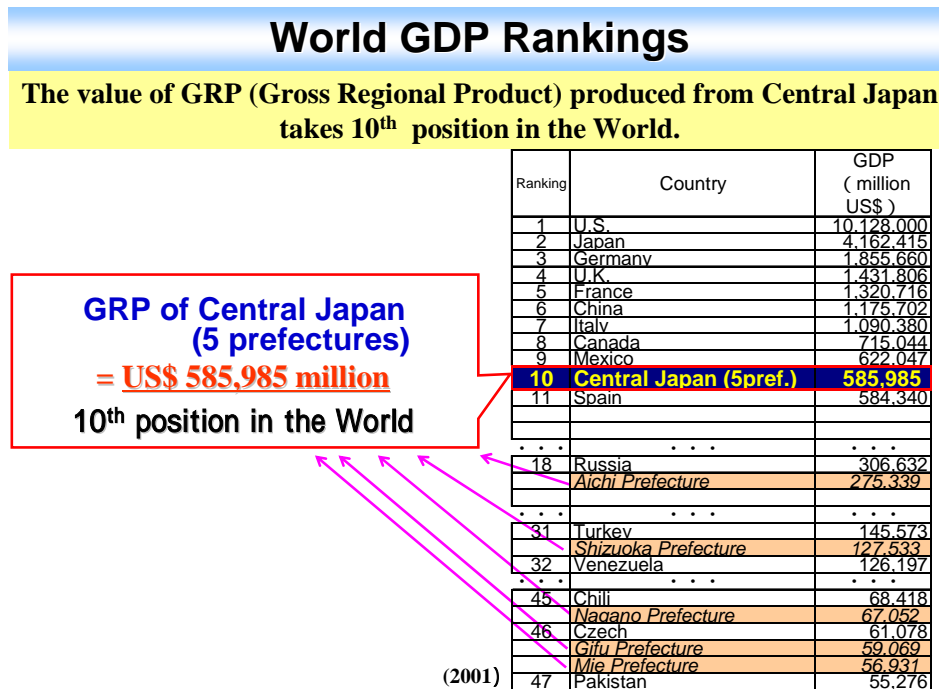
Central Japan is a region suitable for nurturing “homeland awareness” with its features that include nearby topography and a natural environment that readily increase awareness of the homeland, and taking action before other regions of Japan is both important and the best approach.

### Aim of nurturing “homeland awareness”

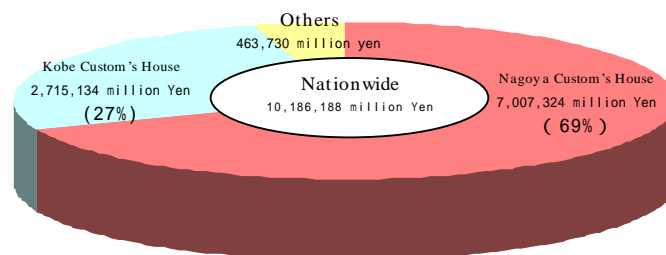
It is important for all citizens to feel affection for their respective regions and for the homeland and have a strong awareness of its problems in order to create a beautiful country and form a safe and worry-free homeland. The aim is for the citizens to play leading roles in creating a beautiful country and forming a safe and worry-free homeland by nurturing “homeland awareness.”

### (3) Strengthening international competitiveness

It calls for ways to improve and expand physical distribution that will support next generation industries, to clarify the roles of gateways to regions, strengthen their functions and construct their networks, and to strengthen and upgrade the overall distribution systems by achieving a pioneering management system in order to nurture and mature next generation industries in Central Japan that is counted on to lead the world in the creation of products to drive the economy of Japan,



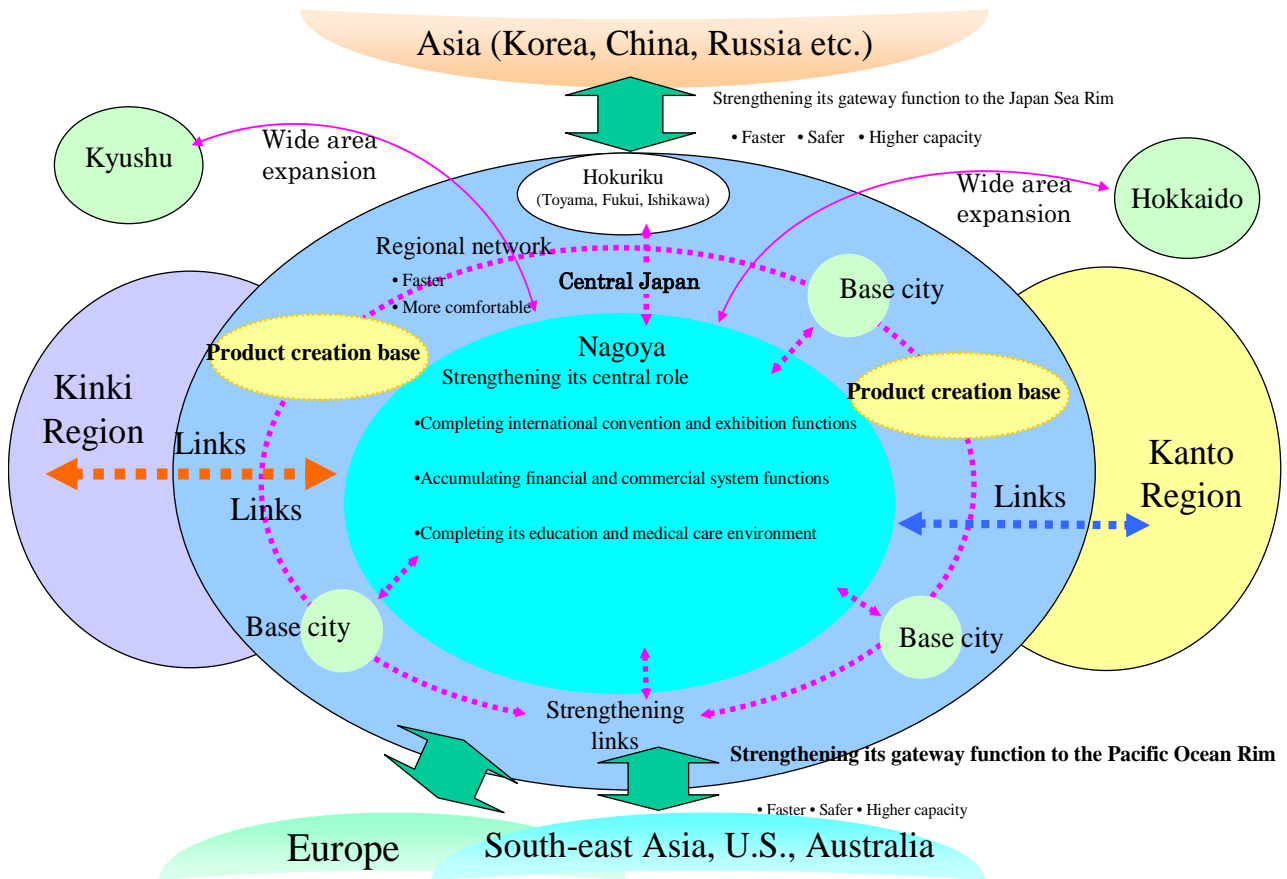
Central Japan's trade surplus accounts for 70% of Japan's total trade surplus



Source: Statistical documents of custom's houses (trade in the jurisdiction in 2003) March 2004  
\* The jurisdiction of the Nagoya Custom's House includes Aichi, Mie, Shizuoka, Gifu, and Nagano Prefectures

In order to take greater advantage of benefits of sitting in the center of Japan, it asks how it should be linked to the Kinki and Kanto regions and how the core functions of Nagoya should be strengthened.

## Wide area development of Central Japan and strengthening its central role



### (4) Fulfilling base functions in the Age of Global Exchange

It asks how to form unique attractive features and improve the base functions of this region in the Age of Global Exchange by supplementing the abundant natural and historical tourism resources of Central Japan through the use of its traditional and its highly advanced industrial technologies as effective tourism resources in the Age of Global Exchange when people, goods, and information are exchanged on a world-wide scale.





## Strengthening the Network Linking the Tourism Resources of Central Japan

The Advisory Panel on Future Central Japan will reflect your views regarding social capital that must be strategically provided in the future to complete its final proposal next fall while continuing discussions among experts.